

# Kamano language

**Kamano** (Kamano-Kafe) is a [Papuan language](#) spoken in [Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea](#).

## Contents

### Nomenclature

### Phonology

Consonants  
Vowels

### Clause chaining

### References

## Nomenclature

The terms 'Kamano' and 'Kamano-Kafe' are both used to refer to the language primarily spoken in [Henganofo District](#), although within the linguistics literature Kamano refers to some varieties within the Kamano-Yagaria group, a dialect chain of [Eastern Highlands Province](#)<sup>[3]</sup>

## Phonology

## Consonants

		Labial	Alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Stop	voiceless	p	t	k	?
	prenasal	ᵐp	ⁿt	ᵑk	
	voiced			g	
Fricative	voiceless	f	s		h
	voiced	β	z		
Nasal		m	n		
Tap			r		

Kamano	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	Eastern Highlands Province
Native speakers	63,000 (2000 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<p>Trans-New Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kainantu-Goroka</li> <li>▪ Goroka</li> <li>▪ Kamano-Yagaria</li> <li>▪ Kamano</li> </ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	kbq
Glottolog	<p>kama1370 (<a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kama1370">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kama1370</a>)<sup>[2]</sup></p>

- Consonant sounds /p t k m n z/ can have preglottalized sounds [ᵖ ṭ ᶚ ᴡ ᶭ ᶧ] occurring word-medially.
- The phoneme /f/ can be in free fluctuation with a voiceless bilabial fricative [ɸ].

## Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e		o
Low		a	

- /e/ can occur as [ɛ] word-initially or word-medially.
- /a/ can occur word initially as [ʌ].<sup>[4]</sup>

## Clause chaining

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Kamano Kafe exhibits a unique form of the clause chaining system often described in Papuan languages. Clause chaining in Papuan languages typically involves one or more medial verbs with limited morphological possibilities being under the scope of a more fully inflected final verb. The medial verbs in these clause chains typically use a switch reference system and various degrees of agreement with final verbs. The Kamano system, unlike other clause chaining systems in New Guinea, has requisite person and number agreement with the subjects of higher clauses<sup>[5]</sup>. A typical example is given below.

Nägra	tr-o-ge-nka,	kägra
I	leave-1 <sub>P.SG-SR-B</sub> 2 <sub>P.SG</sub>	you
tr-an-ke-no',	ägra	tre-'n-i-e
leave-2 <sub>P.SG-SR-B</sub> 3 <sub>P.SG</sub>	he	leave-PERF-3 <sub>P.SG-IND</sub>

"I left, then you left, then he left."

## References

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1. Kamano (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/kbq/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kamano" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kama1370>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Ford, Kevin (1993). "A Preliminary Comparison of Kamano-Yagaria". *Language and Linguistics in Melanesia* 24. 191-202.
4. Drew, D. E. (1963). *The phonemes of Kamano*.
5. Elliott, John (2017). "Understanding preview-subject clause chains in Kamano Kafe" (<http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/wp-elliott-final.pdf>). *University of Hawai'i at Manoa Working Papers*.

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